

What is claimed is:

1 1. An a-C:H gate ISFET device, comprising:
2 a semiconductor substrate;
3 a gate oxide layer on the semiconductor substrate;
4 an a-C:H layer overlying the gate oxide layer to
5 form an a-C:H gate;
6 a source/drain in the semiconductor substrate beside
7 the a-C:H gate;
8 a metal wire on the source/drain; and
9 a sealing layer overlying the metal wire and
10 exposing the a-C:H layer.

1 2. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the length of the channel, the width of the
3 channel and ratio of width/length of the channel of the
4 ISFET are 50 μ m, 1000 μ m and 20, respectively.

1 3. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the semiconductor substrate is p-type.

1 4. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the resistivity of the semiconductor substrate
3 ranges from 8 to 12 Ω -cm.

1 5. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the lattice parameter of the semiconductor is
3 (1,0,0).

1 6. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the thickness of the gate oxide layer is
3 1000 \AA .

1 7. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the metal wire is Al.

1 8. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the sealing layer is epoxide resin.

1 9. The a-C:H gate ISFET device as claimed in claim
2 1, wherein the source/drain is N-type.

1 10. A method for fabricating an a-C:H gate ISFET
2 device, comprising steps of:

3 providing a semiconductor substrate;

4 forming an virtual gate on the semiconductor
5 substrate to define the gate area of the ISFET;

6 forming a source/drain in the semiconductor
7 substrate beside the virtual gate;

8 removing the virtual gate;

9 forming an a-C:H gate in the gate area to form a
10 ISFET by PE-LPCVD.

1 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein
2 forming the virtual gate to define the gate area of the
3 ISFET further comprises:

4 rinsing the semiconductor substrate;

5 forming a pad oxide layer on the semiconductor
6 substrate; and

7 removing a portion of the oxide layer to form a
8 virtual gate to define the gate area.

1 12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
2 PE-LPCVD is performed under conditions of:

3 base pressure at least 10^{-6} torr;

4 temperature of the semiconductor substrate between
5 140°C and 160°C;
6 a mixing gas comprising methane and hydrogen at flow
7 ratio between 6 to 10 SCCM;
8 the process pressure between 0.08 and 0.1 torr; and
9 a RF power between 145W and 160W.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 10, further
2 comprising a step of forming a gate oxide layer below the
3 a-C:H gate in the gate area.

1 14. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein
2 forming the source/drain beside the virtual gate further
3 comprises doping the semiconductor substrate by the
4 virtual gate as a mask to form a source/drain.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the
2 ratio of the methane and hydrogen, in the mixing gas, is
3 30 to 70.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the
2 temperature of the semiconductor substrate is 150°C.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 flow ratio of the mixing gas is 8SCCM.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 pressure of the mixing gas of methane and hydrogen is
3 0.09 torr.

1 19. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 RF power is 150W.

1 20. A method of measuring the temperature
2 parameters of an ISFET with an a-C:H as a detection
3 membrane, comprising:

4 immersing the detection membrane in a buffer
5 solution;

6 changing the pH of the buffer solution at a
7 predetermined temperature;

8 measuring and recording the source-drain current and
9 the gate voltage of the ISFET to obtain a
10 curve;

11 selecting a fixed current from the curve to obtain
12 the sensitivity of the ISFET at the
13 predetermined temperature;

14 changing the temperature of the buffer solution and
15 repeating immersion, pH change, measurement,
16 recording and selection, to obtain the
17 sensitivities of the ISFET at different
18 temperatures.

1 21. The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the
2 increment of the gate voltage is caused by increasing per
3 unit pH at the predetermined temperature.

1 22. The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the
2 predetermined temperature is fixed by a temperature
3 controller and a heater.

1 23. The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the
2 predetermined temperature is between 5°C and 55°C.

1 24. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the
2 pH of buffer solution is between 1 and 10.

1 25. An apparatus for measuring the temperature of
2 an ISFET with a-C:H as a detection membrane, comprising:

3 a semiconductor substrate where the ISFET is formed,
4 comprising a pair of sources and drains
5 separated from each other and the detection
6 membrane insulated from the surface of the
7 semiconductor substrate;

8 a buffer solution contacting the ISFET;

9 a light-isolating container for the buffer solution;

10 a heater for the buffer solution;

11 a temperature controller for the solution heater;

12 a test fixer connected to the source and drain of
13 the ISFET; and

14 a current/voltage measuring device connected to the
15 test fixer to measure and record the source-
16 drain current and the gate voltage of the
17 ISFET.

1 26. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further
2 comprising a reference electrode with one end contacting
3 the buffer solution and the other end connected to the
4 test fixer.

1 27. The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further
2 comprising a thermometer with one end contacting the
3 referring solution and the other end connected to the
4 test fixer to detect the temperature of the referring
5 solution.

1 28. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein
2 the detection membrane and the surface of the ISFET are
3 isolated by a silicon oxide layer.

1 29. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein
2 the test fixer contacts the source/drain of the ISFET
3 through an aluminum contact plug and an aluminum wire.

1 30. The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein
2 the temperature controller is a PID temperature
3 controller.

1 31. A method of measuring the hysteresis width of
2 an ISFET with a-C:H as a detection membrane, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 fixing the drain-source current and the drain-source
5 voltage of the ISFET by a constant
6 voltage/current circuit;

7 immersing the detection membrane in a buffer
8 solution;

9 recording the gate/source output voltage of the
10 ISFET by a voltage-time recorder; and

11 changing the pH of the buffer solution and repeating
12 fixing, immersion and recording to measure the
13 hysteresis width of the ISFET.

1 32. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the
2 hysteresis width is the change in the gate/source output
3 voltage from the first measuring point to the final
4 measuring point.

1 33. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the
2 source-drain current is fixed at $80\mu\text{A}$, and the drain-
3 source voltage is fixed at 0.2V.

1 34. The method as claimed in claim 31, further
2 comprising immersing the ISFET with a-C:H as a detection
3 membrane in a standard solution to maintain stability
4 prior to immersing the detection membrane in the buffer
5 solution.

1 35. The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the
2 pH is changed from pH=6 to pH=2, to pH=6, to pH=10, and
3 to pH=6.

1 36. The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein each
2 pH level of the buffer solution is fixed for one minute.

1 37. A method of measuring the drift rate of an
2 ISFET with a-C:H as detection membrane (called a-C:H
3 ISFET), comprising:

4 fixing the drain/source current and the drain/source
5 voltage of the a-C:H ISFET by a constant
6 voltage/source circuit;

7 immersing the detection membrane in a buffer
8 solution;

9 recording the gate/source output voltage of the a-
10 C:H ISFET during constant period by a voltage-
11 time recorder to obtain the drift rate of the
12 a-C:H ISFET.

1 38. The method as claimed in claim 37, further
2 comprising a step of changing the pH of the buffer

3 solution to measure the drift rates of the a-C:H ISFET at
4 different pH levels.

1 39. The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the
2 drift rate is the change in the gate/source voltage per
3 unit of time.

1 40. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the
2 gate/source current is fixed at $80\mu\text{A}$, and the drain-
3 source voltage is fixed at 0.2V.

1 41. The method as claimed in claim 37, further
2 comprising a step of immersing the a-C:H ISFET in a
3 standard solution to maintain stability prior to
4 immersing the a-C:H ISFET in the buffer solution.

1 42. The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the
2 gate/source output voltage of the a-C:H ISFET is recorded
3 for more than twelve hours.

1 43. An apparatus of measuring the hysteresis width
2 and the drift rate, comprising:

3 an a-C:H ISFET formed on a semiconductor substrate,
4 comprising a pair of source/drain regions
5 within the semiconductor and a detection
6 membrane of a-C:H isolated from the surface of
7 the semiconductor substrate;

8 a buffer solution for receiving the a-C:H ISFET;

9 a light-isolation container for isolating light and
10 carrying buffer solution and the a-C:H ISFET;

11 a heater for heating the buffer solution;

12 a constant current/voltage circuit coupled to the
13 source and drain of the a-C:H ISFET to fix the
14 drain/source current and the drain/source
15 voltage of the a-C:H ISFET;
16 a current/voltage measuring device coupled to the
17 constant current/voltage circuit; and
18 a voltage-time recorder coupled to the constant
19 current/voltage circuit to record the
20 gate/source output voltage of the a-C:H ISFET.

1 44. The apparatus as claimed in claim 43, further
2 comprising a reference electrode with one end immersed in
3 the buffer and the other end connected to the constant
4 voltage/current circuit.

1 45. The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further
2 comprising a thermometer with one end immersed in the
3 buffer solution and the other end coupled to a
4 temperature controller.

1 46. The apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein
2 the temperature controller fixes the temperature of the
3 buffer solution at 25°C.

1 47. The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein
2 the constant voltage/current circuit is a negative
3 feedback circuit.

1 48. The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein
2 the current/voltage measuring device comprises digital
3 multimeters.

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1 49. The apparatus as claimed in claim 48, wherein
2 the constant voltage/current circuit is connected to the
3 source/drain of the a-C:H ISFET by an aluminum contact
4 plug and an aluminum wire.